popularise the cultivation of sunflower in the country. 35 tonnes of improved sunflower seeds was imported and multiplied during kharif. These were distributed to farmers during rabi. Steps are also being taken to ensure that farmers get an incentive price for their oilseeds crops particularly immediately after harvest.

Dry Land Farming

417., SHRI GAYA CHAND BHU-YAN:

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government had increased the acreage of dry land for farming during the year 1987;

(b) whether any cooperation and assistance was made available in this process from ICRISAT;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what concrete steps had been taken to increase the dry land farming during 1987; and

(e) what progress has been made so far with regard to dry land farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRl-CULTUE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) The latest available land use statistics is for the year 1984-85. As per this the net unirri-gated area is 98.9 m.ha. The figures for 1937-88 are not available.

(b) and (c) Not applicable.

(d) and (e) To reduce the overall impact of the current drought on India's agricultural production, ICAR and other line departments have suggested the following short and long term strategies;

AGRICULTURE

1. Crop production practices for important r*abi* crops such as wheat rice, barley, pulses and oilseeds both under irrigated and rainfed situations.

2. Important crops and areas have been identified under assured growing conditions for meeting the future seed requirements and aug-enting the seed supply.

3. Package of practices for promising fruit crops which can tolerate drought conditions have been evolved.

4. Fodder

A. Short term measures

(i) Punjab and Haryana States have around 10.5 m. tonnes of paddy straw. This straw is being utilised for livestock feeding after suitable treatment.

(ii) Considerable amount of sugarcane bagasse is available in some sugarcane growing areas in the country. This bagasse can be utilised as cattle feed after suitable treatment;

(iii) Intensive production of fodder crops in assured/limited water supply situations.

B. Long term measures

(i) Growing of fodder shrubs and trees in agro-forestry, social-forestry and other forestry pro-gammes.

(ii) Increase the productivity of natural pastures through improved management;

(iii) Growing of peiennial fast growing grasses on bunds, channels and fields.

The Department of Agriculture has taken up a National Watershed Development Programme for rain-fed agriculture during 1986-87 with an outlay of Rs. 239 crores as a special programme to stabilise and increase the crop yields in dryland areas. This scheme is in operation in 99 districts of 16 States falling in the rainfall range of 500-1125 m.m.

To meet the shortfall in food production due to drought in *kharif* season the targets of rabi production were fixed at 76.0 m. tonnes. To meet this target, suitable crop production technologies have been suggested for various regions.

This programme has been implemented by different States and the present indications are that the rabi harvests will be better than that of the previous year.

Development of three national capital Region Towns

418. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to develop three towns, namely Panipat in Haryana, Alwar in Rajasthan and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh as priority towns, as a prelude to implementation of the National Capital Region Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the plan and what is the stage of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The development of the three towns has been proposed as a part of the National Capital Region Draft Plan-2001.

(b) The NCR Planning Board had prepared a project having an estimated cost of Rs. 305.58 crores-Rs-Rs. 146.11 crores in the Central sector for railways, telecommunications and national highway and Rs. 159.47 crores in the State sector for urban development schemes including re-gional roads for the period 1987—90. The project will be executed subject to allocation of additional resources by the Planning Commission.

Inclusion of Tharoo Tribe in List of STs

419.SHRISHARADYADAV:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA;

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been persistent demand for over a decade for the inclusion of Tharoo tribe in Bihar in the list of Sche duled Tribes and that sometime in 1976 the Govt, of Bihar had reques ted the Central Government for the inclusion of the Tribe in the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, what are tha reasons for delay in taking a decision in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATT ORAON): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) All the proposals for amendment of the lists shall be considered by Government before bringing